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Voluntary _ Public

Date: 6/5/2018

GAIN Report Number: MO1825

Morocco

Post: Rabat

Food Labeling - Ingredient List Terminology

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Retail Foods

Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional

Food Processing Ingredients

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

This report contains an unofficial translation of [Order No. 2037-16](#), which regulates the use of terms in the list of ingredients relative to food labeling, implementing article 17 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#).

General Information: This report contains an unofficial translation of [Order No. 2037-16](#), which regulates the use of terms in the list of ingredients relative to food labeling, implementing article 17 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#).

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries No. 2037-16 of the 7 Chaoual 1437 (July 12, 2016) Laying Down the Technical Terms of Designation of Ingredients in the Labeling of Food Products.

([BO No. 15/12/2016 6526, page 1976](#))

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries,

In view of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#) of 11 Jumada II 1434 (April 22, 2013) laying down the conditions and detailed rules for labeling of food products, as it has been modified and completed, including its article 17.

Order:

First Article. - In application of the provisions of article 17 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#) referred above, this decree lays down the technical procedures for the designation in the labeling of food products of the ingredients listed in the annex to this order.

Article. 2. - The designation of ingredients, including additives and compound ingredients, in the list of ingredients provided in 2) of article 11 of the [Decree No. 2-12-389](#), must meet the provisions special mentioned in the A) of the annex to this order.

"Compound ingredient" means: any ingredient itself developed from several ingredients.

Article. 3. - Without prejudice to the provisions of I° of article 14 of the [Decree No. 2-12-389](#), the ingredients belonging to one of the categories of food products listed in the B) of the annex to the present order and which enter into the composition of another food product may be designated by the name of this category rather than the specific name.

Article. 4. - Without prejudice to the provisions of article 19 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#), food additives belonging to one of the categories listed in C) of the annex to this order, must be designated by the name of this category and followed by their specific name or, where appropriate, their identification number 'E' in accordance with the provisions of article 18 of the Decree.

In the case of a food additive belonging to several categories, the category indicated is that which corresponds to its main function in the food product concerned.

Article. 5. - Any compound ingredient, as defined in article 2 above, must be included in the list of ingredients, under its own name when it is provided for by the regulations in force or devoted by the use, in terms of its overall weight and be immediately followed by the enumeration of its own ingredients.

Without prejudice to the provisions of article 19 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#), the enumeration for the compound ingredients is not required in the following cases:

- a) When the composition of the compound ingredient is defined in the regulations and as long as this compound ingredient involved for less than 2% in weight of the finished product, with the exception of food additives and (subject to the provisions a) to d) of I° - article 14 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#);
- b) For compound ingredients consisting of mixtures of spices or mixtures of aromatic plants, or mixtures of herbs and spices, which account for less than 2% in weight of the finished product, with the exception of food additives and subject to the provisions a) to d) of I° - article 14 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#);
- c) When the compound ingredient is a food product for which a list of ingredients is not required in accordance with the provisions of article 14 of the [Decree No. 2-12-389](#).

Article. 6. - This order will be published in the Official Bulletin.

Rabat, 7 Chaoual 1437 (July 12, 2016)

AZIZ AKHANNOUCH, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Annex

To the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries No. 2037-16 the 7 Chaoual 1437 (July 12, 2016) Laying Down the Technical Terms of Designation of Ingredients in the Labeling of Food Products.

DESIGNATION OF INGREDIENTS

A) Specific provisions relating to the listing of ingredients in descending order of their weight in the finished product:

| Category of ingredients | Provisions on the enumeration by weight in the finished product. |
|--|---|
| 1. Added water and volatile ingredients | Indication in the list according to their weight in the finished product The amount of water added as an ingredient in a food product is determined by subtracting from the total quantity of the finished product the total amount of the other ingredients used. This quantity may not be taken into consideration if, in weight, it does not exceed 5% of the finished product. This derogation does not apply to meat, preparations of meat and unprocessed fishery products, nor to bivalve molluscs not processed. |
| 2. Ingredients used in concentrated or dehydrated form and reconstituted during manufacture. | Indication in the list based on their weight before concentration or dehydration. |
| 3. Ingredients used in food products concentrated or dehydrated to which must be added water. | Indication in the list according to the order of the proportions in the reconstituted product provided that the list of ingredients is accompanied by a statement such as "ingredients of the reconstituted product" or "ingredients of the product ready for consumption" |
| 4. Fruit, vegetables or mushrooms, none of which are significantly predominate by weight and which are used in proportions likely to vary, used in mixture as ingredients in a food product. | These ingredients can be grouped together in the list of ingredients under the designation " fruit ", " vegetables " or " mushrooms " followed by the mention " in variable proportion ", followed immediately by the enumeration of fruit, vegetables or mushrooms present. In this case, the mixture is indicated in the list of ingredients, in accordance with the provisions of article 17 of Decree No. 2-12-389 in function of the weight of the whole fruit, vegetables or mushrooms present. |
| 5. Mixtures of spices or aromatic plants, none of which is significantly predominate by weight. | These ingredients may be listed in a different order on the condition that the list of those ingredients is accompanied by a statement such as "in variable proportion". |
| 6. Ingredients involved for less than 2% in the finished product. | These ingredients may be listed in a different order after the other ingredients. |
| 7. Refined vegetable oils | These ingredients can be grouped together in the list of ingredients under the designation " vegetable oils " followed immediately by the enumeration of plant origins specific and optionally followed by the words " in variable proportion ". In the case of grouping, vegetable oils are indicated in the list of ingredients, in accordance with the provisions of article 17 of Decree No. 2-12-389 , depending on the weight of all of these vegetable oils. The expression " fully hydrogenated " or " partially hydrogenated ", according to the case, must accompany the indication of hydrogenated oil. |
| 8. Refined vegetable fats | These ingredients can be grouped together in the list of ingredients under the designation of " vegetable fats " followed immediately by the enumeration of plant origins specific and optionally followed by the words " in variable |

proportion ". In the case of grouping, the vegetable fats are indicated in the list of ingredients, in accordance with the provisions of article 17 of [Decree No. 2-12-389](#), depending of the weight of all of these vegetable fats.

The expression **"fully hydrogenated"** or **"partially hydrogenated"**, according to the case, must accompany the indication of a hydrogenated fat.

B) Ingredients which may be designated by the category name rather than a specific name:

| Definition of food product category | Designation |
|--|--|
| 1. Refined oils of animal origin | " Oil ", supplemented either by qualifier " animal ", either by the indication of the animal species. The expression " fully hydrogenated " or " partially hydrogenated ", according to the case, must accompany the indication of hydrogenated oil. |
| 2. Refined fats of animal origin | " Grease " or " fat ", supplemented either by the qualifier " animal ", either by the indication of the animal species. The expression " fully hydrogenated " or " partially hydrogenated ", according to the case, must accompany the indication of a hydrogenated fat. |
| 3. Mixtures of flours from two species of cereals or more. | " Flour ", followed by the enumeration of the species of cereals from which it originates by order of importance by weight decreasing. |
| 4. Starches modified physically or enzymatically. | " Starch(es) " |
| 5. Any species of fish when the fish is an ingredient of another food product and provided that the name and the presentation of this product do not refer to a specific species of fish. | " Fish " |
| 6. All types of cheese where the cheese or mixture of cheeses constitutes an ingredient of the food product and on condition that the name and presentation of this product do not refer to a specific type of cheese. | " Cheese(s) " |
| 7. All spices not exceeding 2% by weight of the product. | " Spices " or " mixture of spices " |
| 8. All herbs or parts of herbs not exceeding 2% by weight of the product. | " Aromatic plant(s) " or " mixture of aromatic plants " |
| 9. All gum preparations used in the manufacture of gum base for chewing gums. | " Gum base " |
| 10. Breadcrumbs of any origin | " Bread crumbs " |
| 11. All types of sucrose | " Sugar " |
| 12. Anhydrous dextrose or monohydrate | " Dextrose " |
| 13. Glucose syrup and dehydrated glucose syrup | " Glucose syrup " |
| 14. All the milk proteins (casein, caseinates and whey and whey proteins) and their mixtures | " Milk proteins " |
| 15. Pressed cocoa butter, <i>expeller</i> or refined | " Cocoa butter " |

| 16. All types of wines, defined by the regulations in force in this matter. | "Wine" | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----|-----|------|------|-----|---------------------|------|------|--|
| <p>17. The skeletal muscles of mammal species and birds, which are recognized as suitable for human consumption, with tissues that are naturally included or adherent, for which the total fat content and connective tissue do not exceed the values given below and when the meat constitutes an ingredient of another food product.</p> <p>Maximum levels of fat and connective tissue for ingredients designated by the term "meat of... ":</p> <table><tr><th>Species</th><th>Fat Content</th><th>Collagen / Meat Protein</th></tr><tr><td>Mammals (excluding rabbits and pigs) and mixtures of species with mammals predominating</td><td>25%</td><td>25%</td></tr><tr><td>Pigs</td><td>30 %</td><td>25%</td></tr><tr><td>Poultry and rabbits</td><td>15 %</td><td>10 %</td></tr></table> <p>When these maximum levels are exceeded and all the other criteria of the "meat of... " are respected, the content in "meat of..." should be adjusted downwards accordingly and the list of ingredients must mention, in addition to the terms "meat of... ", the presence of fat and/or connective tissue.</p> <p>The products covered by the definition of "mechanically separated meat" are excluded from this definition.</p> | Species | Fat Content | Collagen / Meat Protein | Mammals (excluding rabbits and pigs) and mixtures of species with mammals predominating | 25% | 25% | Pigs | 30 % | 25% | Poultry and rabbits | 15 % | 10 % | " Meat of... " followed by the name or names of the species or the animal species from which they are derived |
| Species | Fat Content | Collagen / Meat Protein | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mammals (excluding rabbits and pigs) and mixtures of species with mammals predominating | 25% | 25% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pigs | 30 % | 25% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poultry and rabbits | 15 % | 10 % | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. All types of products falling within the definition of "Mechanically separated meat" | "Mechanically separated meat" followed by the names or names of the species or animal species from which they came from | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C) Naming of categories of food additives in the list of ingredients:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Acidifier | Anti-caking agent |
| Antifoaming | Antioxidant |
| Flour treatment agent | Foaming agent |
| Load Agent | Strengthening |
| Coating agent | Modified starch ⁽¹⁾ |
| Dye | Acidity corrector |
| Conservative | Thickener |
| Sweetener | Flavor enhancer |
| Emulsifier | Propellant gas |
| Gelling | Humectant |
| Baking powder | Sequestering |
| Stabilizer | Cast iron salts ⁽²⁾ |

(1) The indication of the specific name or the number E is not required.

(2) Only in the case of processed cheese and cheese-based products.